

PROSPECTS WORKS.—Tenders were called for by advertisement in last week's papers for the erection of a Baptist chapel, at Luton; a chapel and other work at Gloucester; a lock-up house, &c. at Wooler; a house near St. Ives; a street in Wainfleet, St. Mary, Lincolnshire; an extensive stone terrace, ornamental screen walls, and other works, near Oundle; stables at Cardiff Castle; a Lunatic Asylum at Birmingham; taking up and relaying pavement in New Road; supplying 5,000 yards of squared stone at Rye harbour breakwater; 2,000 to 3,000 yards of gravel at Wisbeach; gravel at Chelmsford; 2,000 tons of cast-iron railway chairs near Strathaven, Scotland; also for enclosing burial ground at Islington with wrought-iron railing; for a supply of turned and bored cast-iron pipes for Liverpool New Gas and Coke Company; and for making 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 bricks for Great Northern Railway.

CORE OF AN ARTESIAN WELL NEAR MANCHESTER.—We learn from a local paper that a well on this principle is now being bored on the hill at the foot of Melbourn-terrace, Salford. The well is covered over by a woodshed, under which is also a small engine and the boring apparatus, which is constructed so as to perform a kind of double eccentric movement. When they have bored a certain depth a cylinder is let down to the bottom, and the sand and other substances are drawn up, when the process of boring is resumed. 160 yards have been bored. It is stated that less than 4½ per yard will cover this undertaking; and it is understood that the depth of 300 yards is intended to be reached. With the present depth (160 yards) the water in the well has risen to within fourteen yards of the surface, and it is expected that by the time they reach 300 yards it will rise to the top. This experiment will cost something over 1,200l.; and if it be correct that the main or artesian well spring lies about 400 or 450 yards below the surface, if 5½ per yard were allowed for a greater depth than 300, the cost would not exceed 2,000l. for the whole depth of 450 yards.

NEW PLASTIC COMPOSITION.—The current number of the *Art-Union* notices the new plastic material devised by Mr. Jules Sohn, which he has applied to producing exact copies of statues, reliefs, wood-carvings, and cases, at a moderate price. It is his intention to visit London in the course of the summer, and to invite public attention to his specimens of an art which promises to prove as important to the sculptor as engraving to the painter, or printing to the author. "It is impossible," says the *Art-Union*, "to view the modern sculptures of France, and even of Italy, without being tempted to exclaim with the patriotic Syrian, 'Are not Pharaoh and Ahimsa, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the rivers of Israel?' Our modern school of English sculpture is now second to none in the civilized world; but means are wanting to make its merits known to the people of England; the processes of etymology-copying hitherto used in this country are not adequate to the artistic wants of the nation."

GREAT BELL FOR MONTREAL.—A bell, equal in size to any in Europe except the Russian inometer, has just been completed at the foundry of Messrs. Mears, Whitechapel, for the Romain Catholic cathedral, Montreal. It weighs four tons thirteen hundred weight and a half, and its diameter at the mouth is 8 feet 7 inches; height to the top of the crown, 8 feet 9 inches; thickness at the sound bow, 8 inches. The tone is said to be deep, rich, and round; the key is F below the line in the bass clef.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—Mr. Wornum has nearly completed a descriptive and historical catalogue of the National Gallery, which he was commissioned to write by the late Government. Besides containing descriptions and histories of the pictures, it will give biographical notices of the painters, arranged alphabetically, preceding the accounts of their respective works.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.—At the next meeting of the Institute, to be held on Monday evening, the president, Earl de Grey, will take the chair, and will present the medals for the successful essays. Professor Willis will read a paper "On the successive construction and history of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, from Constantine downwards." The president's *soirée* is fixed for Wednesday, the 19th.

GATESHEAD AND TURKEY.—Dropping in, the other morning, to Hawks and Crawshaw's ironworks, we came across some swart smiths, in a far-away nook of this monster establishment, earning their bread by the sweat of their brows. One of them, thrusting a cylindrical rod of iron into the fire, allowed it to remain until it became red hot. Then, withdrawing it, the heated end was brought to a machine, and coiled swiftly round an elliptic mould. The ellipse, thus formed, was cut from the rod—slipped upon another ellipse—and thrown upon an anvil. Then came a shower of hammer-heads rattling down upon the ductile metal, and closed the crevice by which the one had been inserted into the other. It was all done in a moment. "What is this you are doing?" we inquired, addressing ourselves to the Biggest Hammer. "What are we doing?" replied Vulcan: "why, forging chains for the Turks, Sir!" And so they literally were. Yes! our canny Gatesheaders, have an order on hand from Abdul Meschid, the young Sultan of Turkey—one of whose subjects, now in England acquiring our language and arts, may daily be seen in our streets. We suggested to the smiths at the South shore, that the Oriental stranger, by seeing them at their work, might be enabled to teach his countrymen, on his return, to make chains for themselves—(a feat which, if we may believe Mr. Beines, Englishmen are now industriously performing). "Ha!" exclaimed a fair-haired Saxon, with an incredulous laugh: "the Turks know better! it's over *baro* work!"—*Gateshead Observer.*

DAMAGES FROM OPEN SEWERS: RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTRACTORS.—In the action by Mr. Claydars, cab master, for damages from loss of a horse by falling into a sewer opened in Dover-street in 1845 by the defendants, Mr. Dethick and another, as contractors, under the authority of the Commissioners of Sewers for the Holborn and Finsbury division, Lord Deane, in summing up the evidence, said that the obstruction of a public way in London was a very serious thing, though it seemed to be treated very lightly by the defendants. He was rather surprised to hear that those gentlemen seemed to think that they might keep a whole neighbourhood in a state of siege for many days, and that people must be content either to suspend the avocations by which they obtained their living, or run the risk of these accidents, and then have to bring an action for redress. His Lordship after going through the evidence, left it to the jury to say whether or not they thought the defendants had been guilty of negligence, for if they had, the plaintiff was entitled to their verdict. The jury almost immediately gave their verdict for the plaintiff, with 20l. damages, although the witnesses called for the defendants said that the horse was not worth more than 3l., and was only hit for the knees, and even aware that the plaintiff himself said, that it was no matter that the horse was killed, for he was worth as much dead as alive.

CORROSION OF LEADEN PIPES AND CISTERNS.—The endeavour to protect lead from the action of water; by placing it in contact with zinc—once alluded to by us, and then generally understood to answer the object—according to a statement by Professor Solle, at the Royal Institution, has signally failed. So much does the present result of experiment vary from that previously made, that it is said the corrosion is greatly increased by the presence of zinc, and the water thus rendered additionally poisonous. The professor also referred to an attempt to render lead insoluble by alloying it with ½ of its weight of arsenic. Mr. Solle also showed, that unless water contain *salts* as sulphate of lime—it ought never to be taken internally, if kept in leaden cisterns, these earthy salts protecting the lead from the action of the water.

THE SUZ SHIP CANAL.—Once more we have a rumour of the speedy realization of this long-projected work. "It is evident," says a correspondent of the *Morning Post*, "that something more serious than mere talk is intended, as several German engineer officers, at whose head is M. Yasager, have actually arrived in Egypt, while many others are expected, their avowed object being a thorough survey of the Isthmus of Suez, as connected with the formation of a navigable ship canal."

ISLE OF MAN GRANITE.—The quarry of granite which was opened in the Isle of Man when the mining monopoly in the island was broken up last summer, is not only "turning out a good concern," according to the *Memo Herald*, but the material is so hard, well kott together, and capable of receiving so high a polish, and indeed is of a quality so altogether superior, and in every way favourable for working, that "even Aberdeen has sent orders here for such blocks of granite for its harbour as cannot be supplied by its own quarries;" so that, according to a correspondent of the same authority, "it bids fair not only to rival the quarries on the west side of England, but even the more distant ones in Devonshire, as well as Aberdeen itself." The navigation laws, however, are felt to interfere very much with the distribution of it in return cargoes, at a moderate freight, to London, Chatham, Dover, &c., southward, or Aberdeen northward, as the timber and other produce required in the Isle of Man is chiefly brought in foreign bottoms from the Baltic and elsewhere, the vessels returning in ballast, although they would be glad to take granite at moderate freights.

THE GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL.—Man is so inclined to give himself up to common pursuits, the mind becomes so easily dulled to impressions of the beautiful and perfect, that one should take all possible means to awaken one's perspective faculty to such objects, for no one can entirely dispense with these pleasures; and it is only the being unaccustomed to the enjoyment of anything good, that causes men to find pleasure in tasteless and trivial objects, which have no recommendation but that of novelty. One ought every day to hear a little music, to read a little poetry, to see a good picture, and, if it were possible, to say a few reasonable words.—*Goethe.*

THE LITERARY FUND.—The anniversary dinner of this admirable institution took place at the London Tavern on Wednesday last, Chevalier Bunsen in the chair. With such men as the Archbishop of Dublin, Bishop of St. David, Sir Stratford Canning, Sir R. H. Inglis, Lord Sandon, Dr. Whewell, and others to propose toasts and respond, and a very large company, it was nevertheless a drowsy meeting. Discretion is a rare virtue.

PARNASSUS' ALMSHOUSES COMPETITION.—A correspondent informs us that the successful candidates in this competition are, 1. Messrs. Elmslie and Lee, of London; 2. Mr. W. H. Woodman, Reading, Berks; and, 3. Mr. M. H. Cooper, of London. As usual, we have received several complaining letters, but as we have not yet seen the designs we postpone the consideration of them.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

During the coming week.

Monday, May 17.—Societate 11, St. James's square, 8 p.m. British Association, 11, Gower-street, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, 18.—Civil Engineers, at Great George-street, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, 19.—Society of Arts, Adelphi, 8 p.m.; Architectural Association.
Thursday 20.—Royal Society, Somerset House, 9 p.m.; Society of Antiquaries, Strand, 8 p.m.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"To Describe Plaster of Paris"—Sulphate of lime, if of which plaster of Paris is made, is composed of sulphuric acid and lime, and is a hydrate of lime. It is not a salt, but a compound of lime and sulphuric acid. It is not a salt, but a compound of lime and sulphuric acid. It is not a salt, but a compound of lime and sulphuric acid.

"N. A. G."—A reply on such information would merely mislead. Moreover, it is beyond our province.

"Singer in Old London."—Thomas Emerson of Birmingham requests us to state by what not the bricklayer referred to in a notice of Court of Sewers, last week.

"London's Needs."—The study of perspective is most important. We have not time to recommend books.

"B. A."—A correspondent has the cost of temporary church at Exeter, was £100, not £1, as stated.

"Type."—This cost of Keen's recent would answer the purpose.

"Museum."—We have not the address of the party in question.

"N. A. G."—We have not the address of the party in question.

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